28th July 1952]

Amount collected by the P.C.C. Societies in Malabar.

* 263 *Q.*—Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 7 lakhs of rupees were collected by producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies of Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, in excess of the scheduled prices of rice in the year 1949; and that the above fund was taken possession of by the Government?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" A sum of Rs. 6,27,936-9-3 was collected during 1947-48 by certain producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, due to the wrong fixation of the release price of imported rice received from 21st August 1947. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 23,299-2-9 was adjusted towards the loss sustained by the Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Society, Ponnani, and the balance of Rs. 6,04,637-6-6 was recovered and earmarked for the construction of a bridge at Chettuvayi on the Kuthungal Ala Road in Malabar district."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN:—" May I know when the Government will take up the construction of the bridge at Chettuvayi and the metalling of the Kuthungal Ala Road?

Mr. SPEAKER:—" The main question is about the amount collected by producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" The matter is under investigation and it will be taken up as soon as the investigation is over."

Dr. K. B. MENON:—" As, by the abolition of food control, a source of income to the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies is removed, have the Government any plan for the effective use of the huge accumulated funds of the societies?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I am afraid this is too a general question and it does not in any way relate to the main question put here."

Representations received from the Madras Electricity Department Operative Subordinate Service Association.

* 264 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation addressed to the Minister for Public Works on or about 25th February 1952, from Madras Electricity Department Operative Subordinate Service Association regarding their grievances; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—" (*a*) No, but a copy of a representation addressed to the Chief Engineer for Electricity was received.